

## THE OREGON QUESTION.

I did not say, sir, as I am reported in the journal here to have said, in the few hasty remarks I made to the Senate the other day, that I could demonstrate "that we had a perfect title to the whole

It may be said, sir, that a true exposition of the law of nations does not sanction this principle. But Great Britain has established it, and the controversy is with her, and to her it can be applied with

nothing there, unless on the ground of some such  
quent arrangement, at which a certain claim has  
been retained, and which, as a result, has ac-  
quired by the convention between Spain and Great  
Britain, signed at the Escurial on the 29th of Oc-  
tober, 1790, called the "Nootka Convention." The  
convention, allowing British subjects to make se-  
tlements for trade with the Indians, without ac-  
quiring soil or sovereignty, it is alleged, changes  
the rights of the parties, and defeats our  
recovery. It remains to be seen, whether  
if this is so—the convention does secure to our  
cognate nations the right to acquire territory  
and Great Britain such a territorial claim

“ Finally, as to the nature of the satisfaction which the Court of London exacts on this occasion, and on which your excellency appears to desire some explanation, I am authorized, sir, to assure you, that it has been determined, in making the satisfaction in his name, by treating the subjects that have been determined to offer to his Britannic Majesty a just and equitable satisfaction for the insult offered to his flag, such offer, joined to a promise of making restitution of the vessels captured, and of indemnifying the proprietors, under the same conditions as in the official letter of the 10th of May, specified in a letter of the 22d of May, on the 16th of May, will be regarded by his Britannic Majesty as constituting in itself the satisfaction demanded; and that said Majesty will accept of it as such, by the declaration on his part, which is enclosed, and which is signed by his Britannic Majesty, page 3.

“ Finally, I am authorized to assure you, that his Britannic Majesty has the required declaration signed by his promised co-signatory dec-

Under instruction from his Government, Mr. Buchanan, on the 11th of March, 1846, in presenting her claim under the Nootka convention, Great Britain offered her repose on no other right than that, gratuitously and without any equivalent whatever, granted to the subjects by the convention with us of that year, and undisturbedly continued by the convention of the 10th of August, 1847; for, by the conclusion of the former treaty, she considered and treated that of 1790 as Spain's a nullity, and thus regarding it, it followed that the consequences, and the consequences, that, by her own acknowledgment we were the parties in possession, the right of sovereignty resided in United States.

Should it be necessary, Mr. President, to add to strong circumstantial proof of the conscious will

no territorial jurisdiction, and that the right is a mere concession granted to Great Britain for the sole purpose of preventing disputes and differences between the parties through collisions among their citizens and subjects, and originated in the desire to prevent the capture of British ships in 1813, sought the country in great numbers, enabling themselves from its wild productions, with whom our own citizens, allured by the same object, might come in collision, and with angry disputes, and difficulties might ensue. It was, therefore, said, sir, under such circumstances, to license his use of the country for ten years, as it was then needed for any national purpose, or excepted out of that day to become an important appendage to our navy. I shall not say that I believe it was not a wise arrangement at the time it was entered into. No right in Great Britain is acknowledged by it. There is no such idea in any part of the instrument; no recognition expressed or implied of a right in Great Britain to any part of the